

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 240822Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL NAHA

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1789

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA AB

USAGO MACHINATO

313TH AD KADENA

MARCORB CAMP BUTLER

COMFLEACTS OKINAWA

OAFM MACHINATO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAHA 373

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, JA

SUBJECT: PRESS ARTICLE ON USAF IE SHIMA RANGE

SUMMARY. LOCAL PRESS ARTICLE CLAIMS USAF CONTINUING HEAVY USE
OF IE SHIMA AERIAL RANGE DESPITE DFA REQUEST AND INAPPROPRIATENESS
OF ACTIVITY SO CLOSE TO EXPO. END SUMMARY

1. WITH AN ABSENCE OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING OUR SERVICEMEN, AND

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WITH THEIR MINDS ON EXPO AND OTHER THINGS, THE OKINAWAN NEWSPAPERS
OVER THIS LAST MONTH OR SO HAVE CARRIED FEWER ARTICLES THAN USUAL
ATTACKING OUR BASE PRESENCE HERE. A REMINDER OF THEIR INTEREST,
HOWEVER, IN FINDING STORIES TO USE AGAINST US IS SHOWN IN A SHORT
ARTICLE JULY 24 IN THE OKINAWA TIMES ON THE USAF IE SHIMA AERIAL
RANGE. UNDER A TOKYO DATELINE, THE TIMES SAID THAT THE USAF HAS
IGNORED A REQUEST FROM THE DEFENSE FACILITIES AGENCY (DFA) THAT
USE OF THE IE SHIMA RANGE BE STOPPED DURING THE EXPO PERIOD. IN
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FACT, THE ARTICLE ALLEGES THAT HEAVY USAF USE OF THE RANGE CONTINUES,

INCLUDING PRACTICE NUCLEAR BOMBING. (BY PREFECTUAL GOVERNMENT COUNT, THE RANGE WAS USED 347 DAYS OVER THE LAST YEAR, MAKING IT THE MOST HEAVILY USED OF THE 29 U.S. TRAINING AREAS ON OKINAWA.) THE ARTICLE STATES THAT THE AMERICAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RANGE FOR SECURITY AND DEFENSE PURPOSES AND NOTE THAT THE TWO AND A HALF HOUR BREAK EACH DAY TO ALLOW CIVIL AIR USE OF THE NEW AIRFIELD IS THE MAXIMUM THEY CAN PERMIT. THE ARTICLE GOES ON TO CRITICIZE BOTH THE INAPPROPRIATENESS OF THIS RANGE ACTIVITY SO CLOSE TO EXPO AND THE DFA FOR MAKING ONLY HALF-HEARTED EFFORTS TO GET THE AMERICANS TO STOP USING IT.

2. COMMENT: THIS ARTICLE ALONE DOES NOT AMOUNT TO MUCH UNLESS

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IT INCITES LEFTIST INTEREST. THUS FAR WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY SOLID INDICATION THAT LEFTIST ACTIVISTS ARE TAKING UP THE IE SHIMA RANGE AS AN ISSUE. IN THEIR SEARCH TO FIND SOMETHING BAD TO SAY ABOUT US, THE LEFT-LEANING JOURNALISTS ARE ALSO COMPLAINING ABOUT "HEAVY" U.S. MARINE CORPS MANEUVERS AT KIN AND GINOZA, WHICH IN PART WERE ORGANIZED IN AN EFFORT TO CUT DOWN THE NUMBER OF U.S. SERVICEMEN OUT ON THE STREETS DURING THE TOUCHY OPENING DAYS OF EXPO.

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